

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Mass.* LICENSING BOARD

FOR THE

## CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1929



MAY 8 1930

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

December 1, 1929.

To His Excellency FRANK G. ALLEN, *Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

Sir:—The Licensing Board for the City of Boston respectfully submits its twenty-fourth annual report covering the year ending November 30, 1929.

## PERSONNEL OF THE BOARD

DAVID T. MONTAGUE, *Chairman*, ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE, MARY E. DRISCOLL, constitute the present Board. Mr. Selfridge was reappointed and confirmed in December, 1928.

## FINANCIAL

Receipts and disbursements for the year ending November 30, 1929.

Miscellaneous licenses . . . . .	\$53,943 00	
Liquor licenses . . . . .	2,525 25	
Miscellaneous receipts . . . . .	265 00	
		\$56,733 25
Expenses of the board, salaries, rent, lights, etc.		33,322 13
Excess receipts over expenditures . . . . .		\$23,411 12

## LICENSES GRANTED BY THE BOARD

1. Third-class liquor, Retail druggists . . . . .	250
2. Fourth-class liquor, Wholesale dealers . . . . .	8
3. Fifth-class, Industrial alcohol . . . . .	1
4. Soft drinks . . . . .	2,425
5. Innholders and Common Victualers . . . . .	2,636
6. Lodging houses . . . . .	3,642
7. Intelligence offices . . . . .	173
8. Sale of Firearms . . . . .	16
9. Billiard and Pool tables and Bowling alleys . . . . .	322
10. Skating rinks, Ferris wheels and Merry-Go-Rounds . . . . .	3
11. Picnic groves . . . . .	2
12. Sunday sale of ice cream, confectionery, soda water and fruit . . . . .	2,258
13. Entertainment, required by chap. 299, Acts of 1926 . . . . .	170

Total number of applications acted on during the year:

Granted	11,906
Rejected	315
	<hr/> 12,221

The Board has held 660 formal hearings during the year in addition to many informal conferences.

Kind of License	Number	Action Taken
Third-class druggists . . .	9	Granted after hearing
Third-class druggists . . .	1	Rejected after hearing
Third-class druggists . . .	1	Dismissed
Innholders . . . . .	3	Revoked
Innholders . . . . .	2	Dismissed
Innholders . . . . .	10	Placed on file
Innholders . . . . .	2	Granted after hearing
Innholders . . . . .	1	Restricted
Common victualers . . . .	31	Revoked
Common victualers . . . .	34	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Common victualers . . . .	2	Suspended 1 month
Common victualers . . . .	4	Suspended 2 weeks
Common victualers . . . .	7	Suspended 1 week
Common victualers . . . .	6	Suspended 3 days
Common victualers . . . .	1	Suspended indefinitely
Common victualers . . . .	23	Placed on file
Common victualers . . . .	19	Granted after hearing
Common victualers . . . .	13	Rejected after hearing
Common victualers . . . .	14	Dismissed
Common victualers . . . .	3	Miscellaneous
Fruit, etc. . . . .	13	Revoked
Fruit, etc. . . . .	17	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Fruit, etc. . . . .	6	Suspended 1 month
Fruit, etc. . . . .	8	Suspended 2 weeks
Fruit, etc. . . . .	6	Suspended 1 week
Fruit, etc. . . . .	2	Suspended balance license year
Fruit, etc. . . . .	22	Placed on file
Fruit, etc. . . . .	13	Granted after hearing
Fruit, etc. . . . .	24	Rejected after hearing
Fruit, etc. . . . .	3	Miscellaneous
Billiard and Pool . . . . .	7	Revoked
Billiard and Pool . . . . .	3	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Billiard and Pool . . . . .	4	Placed on file
Billiard and Pool . . . . .	4	Granted after hearing
Billiard and Pool . . . . .	13	Rejected after hearing
Billiard and Pool . . . . .	5	Dismissed
Lodging houses . . . . .	75	In regard to fire escapes
Lodging houses . . . . .	19	Revoked
Lodging houses . . . . .	31	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Lodging houses . . . . .	19	Placed on file
Lodging houses . . . . .	1	Granted after hearing
Lodging houses . . . . .	6	Rejected after hearing
Lodging houses . . . . .	35	Dismissed
Lodging houses . . . . .	2	Suspended indefinitely
Lodging houses . . . . .	1	Miscellaneous
Soft drinks . . . . .	21	Revoked
Soft drinks . . . . .	21	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Soft drinks . . . . .	6	Suspended 1 month
Soft drinks . . . . .	9	Suspended 2 weeks
Soft drinks . . . . .	6	Suspended 1 week
Soft drinks . . . . .	2	Suspended balance license year
Soft drinks . . . . .	17	Placed on file
Soft drinks . . . . .	11	Granted after hearing
Soft drinks . . . . .	14	Rejected after hearing
Soft drinks . . . . .	2	Dismissed
Soft drinks . . . . .	1	Miscellaneous
Intelligence offices . . . .	1	Placed on file

Kind of License	Number	Action Taken
Intelligence offices . . . . .	1	Rejected after hearing
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	2	Rejected after hearing
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	2	Dismissed
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	6	Revoked
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	4	Revoked (revocation suspended)
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	4	Placed on file and cautioned
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	2	Suspended 1 week
Entertainment, etc. . . . .	3	Suspended 3 days

660

NOTE.—In 50 cases the Board suspended the license for a definite term and on the termination of the suspension the license was revoked but the revocation suspended.

Liquor licenses are issued under the Massachusetts Liquor Law subject to Federal laws and regulations. The fee for a third and a fifth class license is fixed by statute at one dollar.

TABLE 1.—LIQUOR

The following is a classified list of the licenses in force November 30, 1929:

Fourth-class dealer,	4	Fifth-class license,	1
Fourth-class druggist	3	Third-class druggist,	238

246

*Number of Licenses Issued and Amount Paid into the Treasury from December 1, 1928, to December 1, 1929*

4 fourth-class dealers, at \$300 . . . . .	\$1,200 00
3 fourth-class druggists, at \$300 . . . . .	900 00
1 fourth-class druggist . . . . .	174 25
250 third-class druggists, at \$1 . . . . .	250 00
1 fifth-class license, at \$1 . . . . .	1 00
Total . . . . .	\$2,525 25

TABLE 2.—COMMON VICTUALERS AND INNOLDERS

*Common Victualers*

Applications granted . . . . .	2,579
Places licensed . . . . .	2,127
Canceled:	
Surrendered . . . . .	322
For non-payment . . . . .	99
	421
Rejected . . . . .	60
Revoked . . . . .	31
Transferred . . . . .	72
Fees collected <sup>1 2</sup> . . . . .	\$12,395 00

Of the licenses granted, 38 were for dining cars, 30 of which are in actual operation.

<sup>1</sup> 3 (1928) licenses paid.<sup>2</sup> 1 license reconsidered and rejected.*Innholders*

Applications granted . . . . .	57
Places licensed . . . . .	46
Canceled:	
Surrendered . . . . .	8
Rejected . . . . .	2
Revoked . . . . .	3
Fees collected . . . . .	\$285 00

The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.

TABLE 3.—BILLIARD, POOL AND SIPPION TABLES AND BOWLING ALLEYS

Applications granted	283
Clubs	40
	<hr/>
Places licensed	323
Places licensed (clubs)	256
	40
Canceled:	
Surrendered	12
For non-payment	6
	<hr/>
Rejected	18
Revoked	34
Transferred	7
Withdrawn	4
Additional	8
	2

*Number of Tables and Alleys*

Billiards	370
Pool	1,246
Bowling alleys	774
Canceled for non-payment	6

19 Billiard, 33 Pool, 6 Bowling Alleys

Fees collected \$11,660 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5 for each table and alley.

TABLE 4.—INTELLIGENCE OFFICES

Applications granted	173
Places licensed	149
Canceled:	
Surrendered	Class 1—2
	Class 2—2
For non-payment	Class 1—2
	Class 2—7

13

Rejected	3
Transfers granted	19
Fees collected <sup>1</sup>	

\$8,822 00

Of the applications granted

90 were first class, \$6,750

72 were second class, 2,520

11 were third class, 22

The fee established by the Board is \$75 for a first-class license; \$35 for a second-class license; and \$2 for a third-class license.

11 licensed places hold two classes of licenses.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Class 1 license reconsidered and rejected.

TABLE 5.—PICNIC GROVES

Applications granted	2
Places licensed	2
Rejected	1
Fees collected	

\$10 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.



TABLE 6.—SUNDAY SALE OF ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY, SODA WATER OR FRUIT

Applications granted . . . . .	2,258	
Places licensed . . . . .	2,002	
Canceled:		
Surrendered . . . . .	197	
For non-payment . . . . .	46	
		243
Rejected . . . . .	74	
Transferred . . . . .	74	
Transfers rejected . . . . .	2	
Withdrawn . . . . .	26	
Revoked . . . . .	13	
Fees collected <sup>1 2</sup> . . . . .		\$11,060 00

The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.

<sup>1</sup> 1 license unpaid.

<sup>2</sup> Unpaid license 1928, paid.

TABLE 7.—LODGING HOUSES

Applications granted . . . . .	3,642	
Places licensed . . . . .	3,251	
Canceled:		
Surrendered . . . . .	314	
For non-payment . . . . .	58	
		372
Rejected . . . . .	64	
Revoked . . . . .	19	
Transferred . . . . .	90	
Fees collected <sup>1 2 3</sup> . . . . .		\$7,166 00

The fee established by the City is \$2.

<sup>1</sup> License unpaid.

<sup>2</sup> 3 (1928) licenses paid.

<sup>3</sup> 1 (1928) license canceled for non-payment.

TABLE 8.—MERRY-GO-ROUND, FERRIS WHEELS, ETC.

Applications granted . . . . .	2	
Places licensed . . . . .	2	
Fees collected . . . . .		\$11 00

The fee established by the Board is \$1 for each class for each day licensed.

TABLE 9.—ROLLER SKATING RINKS

Applications granted . . . . .	1	
Places licensed . . . . .	1	
Fees collected . . . . .		\$5 00

The fee established by law not to exceed \$5.

TABLE 10.—RETAIL VENDORS OF SOFT DRINKS

Applications granted . . . . .	2,425	
Places licensed . . . . .	2,151	
Canceled:		
Surrendered . . . . .	196	
For non-payment . . . . .	57	
		253
Rejected . . . . .	52	
Revoked . . . . .	21	
Transfers granted . . . . .	71	
Transfers rejected . . . . .	1	
Withdrawn . . . . .	25	
Fees collected <sup>1</sup> . . . . .		\$2,369 00

The fee is established by law, not to exceed \$1.

<sup>1</sup> 1 unpaid license 1928, paid.

TABLE 11.—FIREARMS

Applications granted	16	
Places licensed	16	
Transferred	2	
Fees collected		\$80 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

TABLE 12.—ENTERTAINMENT, ETC.

Applications granted:	Innholders	16	
	Common victualers	137	
	Fruit	1	
	Soft drinks	15	
	Club	1	
Canceled:			
Surrendered	Innholder	1	
	Common victualers	7	
Non-payment	Soft drinks	1	
Rejected:	Common victualers	20	
	Soft drinks	2	
	Club	1	
Revoked:	Common victualers	5	
Places in operation		156	
Fees collected			\$80 00

TABLE 13.—MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS

Recording fees	\$259 00
Sale of Firearms books	6 00
Total amount received and paid into the treasury on account of miscellaneous licenses and receipts	\$54,208 00

TABLE 14.—HOLDERS OF LICENSES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO NATIVITY

	Lodging Houses	Common Victualers	Inn-holders	Retail Vendors of Soft Drinks	Fruit, Ice Cream, etc.	Fire-arms
Albanian	1	44	..	64	66	..
American	1,608	1,154	63	660	571	9
Arabian	6	1	..	..	..	..
Armenian	11	46	..	104	112	..
Austrian	10	15	..	20	21	..
Belgian	9	..	..	1	..	..
Canadian	760	144	4	65	48	..
Chinese	..	21	..	1	..	..
Czecho Slav	5	..	..	..	..	..
Danish	8	2	..	1	1	..
Dutch	2	..	..	3	3	..
English	140	40	..	47	46	1
Finlander	6	3	..	..	..	..
French	22	8	2	1	1	..
German	32	31	..	19	14	..
Grecian	24	355	..	165	173	..
Hungarian	2	1	..	1	1	..
Irish	551	77	2	108	112	..
Italian	38	298	1	502	456	3
Japanese	1	2	..	..	..	..
Lithuanian	9	15	..	44	36	..
Norwegian	9	5	..	4	5	..
Polish	68	26	..	50	38	..
Portuguese	14	15	..	12	12	..
Roumanian	2	4	..	10	11	..
Russian	36	342	1	451	457	2
Scotch	72	7	..	10	9	1
So. American	5	6	..	..	..	..
Spanish	2	..	..	2	2	..
Swedish	90	15	..	7	5	..
Swiss	2	1	..	1	..	..
Syrian	153	32	..	99	95	..
Turkish	5	25	..	24	24	..
Ukranian	..	3	..	..	..	..
Welsh	2	..	..	..	..	..
West Indies	27	5	..	6	3	..
	3,732	2,743	73	2,482	2,322	16

Many interested organizations and persons have asked the Board about the number of cases heard by it during a series of years and the final disposition thereof. To answer these inquiries the following table, a recapitulation for the past seven years, is annexed:—

### COMPLAINTS SINCE 1921-22 UP TO AND INCLUDING 1928-29

CLASS	Revoked	Revoked but revocation suspended	Suspended	Placed on file	Dismissed	Granted after a hearing	Rejected after a hearing	Withdrawn	Restrictions imposed	Miscellaneous	Totals	Percentage of kind in relation to total
Druggists . . . . .	10	..	5	23	10	24	5	..	..	3	80	1.22%
Innholders . . . . .	7	8	4	67	24	5	4	1	18	11	149	2.26%
Entertainment . . . .	11	14	10	13	2	13	11	..	18	11	103	1.57%
Common Victualer . .	431	210	313	326	101	271	243	8	27	63	1,993	30.26%
Fruit, etc. (Lord's Day)	256	107	174	328	14	199	121	4	3	10	1,216	18.46%
Beverages (Soft Drinks)	402	144	285	339	35	201	163	3	6	27	1,605	24.37%
Billiards, etc. . . . .	43	20	41	49	18	87	64	1	2	17	342	5.19%
Lodging Houses . . . .	197	163	35	282	184	31	36	3	25	100	1,056	16.03%
Intelligence Offices . .	3	..	..	1	1	10	9	1	..	7	32	..
Picnic Groves . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Clubs . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Merry-Go-Rounds . . .	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	..
Firearms . . . . .	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..
Totals . . . . .	1,363	666	867	1,429	391	843	656	21	99	251	6,586	
Percentages . . . . .	20.70	10.11	13.16	21.69	5.94	12.80	9.96	.33	1.50	3.81		100%

### EXPENDITURES FROM DECEMBER 1, 1928, TO DECEMBER 1, 1929

#### Personal Service

Commissioners, Secretary and Permanent employes	\$26,058 72
Temporary employes	221 94

#### Services Other than Personal

Printing and binding	57 00
Light	219 74
Rent	4,500 00
Communication	329 42
Cleaning	20 45
Investigation, etc.	429 90
General plant repairs	47 75

#### Equipment

Office	23 05
Library	28 25

#### Supplies

Office	1,334 16
Food and ice	48 00
Laundry, cleaning, etc.	3 75
Total	\$33,322 13

### LEGISLATION

The legislature of 1929 made no change in the laws relating to the Board or to the licenses granted by it.



## ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES

## Chapter 299 of the Acts of 1926

Hotels and restaurants which furnish music, dancing or other forms of entertainment in their dining rooms are now required to have a special license and therefore the hours and character of the entertainment are under the control of the Board.

Wonder or criticism is sometimes expressed by visitors to the city and others that the hours of entertainment are restricted and that dancing is not allowed on Sunday or during the early hours of Monday morning. The Board is of the opinion, however, that the laws and its rules in that behalf are liberal enough and that the wider latitude allowed in some large cities is not desirable here.

## LODGING OR ROOMING HOUSES

The Board continues to refer new applications to the Building Department of the City for its report as to safety from fire, and much progress has been made toward that end. As a whole, the lodging houses of the city appear to be respectable and well conducted; complaints concerning them are few in proportion to the number.

## GAMBLING DEVICES

Inventive genius does not overlook devices intended, or which may readily be used for gambling, and new contrivances of the kind are constantly appearing. Some of these devices have been held illegal by courts, others have not yet, to the knowledge of the Board, been before any court.

It has been urged by interested parties that any such device which has not been declared by our court of last resort to be a gambling device ought to be permitted, but it is the opinion of the Board that the community, especially children, should be protected from temptation so far as is reasonably possible, and it therefore requests its licensees not to have on licensed premises any machine or device of which the element of chance appears to be the principal appeal.

## SUNDAY FRUIT, ETC., LICENSES

These licenses permit the sale on Sunday of four articles only, namely, fruit, ice cream, confectionery and soda water, which last is construed to include the usual so-called soft drinks. These places also usually sell on Sunday tobacco and newspapers, for the sale of which no license is required by law, and often sell milk, which requires a license from the Health Department. Many of these licensees also sell bread and other cooked foodstuffs during the week, and in some sections of the city, owing to the scarcity of retail bakers, it is difficult to buy bread or other bakery products on Sunday. Living conditions have so materially changed during the past few years that in view of present conditions the Board renews its suggestion that the law might well be made more liberal with reference to the sale of certain foodstuffs on Sunday.

## INNOLDERS AND COMMON VICTUALERS

An innholder's license, commonly called a hotel license, permits and indeed requires the furnishing of food and lodging to "strangers and travelers" in the words of the Statute, and in practice covers a much wider range. If a so-called hotel does not furnish food, it is given a lodging house license. Under a strict interpretation of the law a common victualer is supposed to furnish food about the same as a hotel, but in recent years places furnishing limited kinds of food have become very common and apparently very popular, and the Board takes the position that a public place furnishing any kind of food to be eaten on the premises should have a common victualer license.

## COMPLAINTS AND HEARINGS

Complaints for violation of law or of the terms of a license are usually made by the Police, but sometimes by City Departments, Federal authorities and individuals. Public hearings are held on all complaints that purport to be sustained by evidence. Hearings are also held on all applications disapproved by the Police if the applicant desires. At all hearings any person interested may appear with counsel, and if a person has no counsel, the Board endeavors to safeguard his or her rights and see to it that the whole truth is brought out. Nothing in the nature of a penalty is imposed without a hearing.

DAVID T. MONTAGUE,  
ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE,  
MARY E. DRISCOLL,

*Licensing Board for the City of Boston.*